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January 18, 2005

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County of Origin Labeling Program Agricultural Marketing Service 1400 Independence Avenue SW USDA STOP 0249 Washington, D. C. 20250-0240

Re: Docket No: LS-03-04

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to urge you to strengthen the final interim rules for the country of origin labeling for fish and shellfish. We believe the law should be implemented as Congress intended. Consumers have a right to know where their seafood comes from so they can choose what seafood to buy.

When seafood such as shrimp is farm-raised with chemicals, consumers have a right to know. This should apply to processed foods as well.

You should narrow the definition of processed foods so that all breaded and cooked products, such as shrimp, should be labeled.

Furthermore, all businesses – large or small – should be required to comply with the law. An enforcement and penalty system should be developed to assure compliance.

We appreciate your response to our request.

Very truly yours,

Marilyn Murphy

Social Concerns Facilitator/

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Rural Life Contact

